SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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Meetings of Branches and Divisions.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND BRANCH: GLASGOW EASTERN DIVISION.

AT the annual meeting on February 22nd the following office-bearers were appointed:

Chairman: Dr. Syson. *Vice-Chairman:* Dr. J. M. Glaister. *Interim Honorary Secretary and Treasurer and Representative to Representative Meetings:* Dr. J. Wishart Kerr. *Deputy Representative:* Dr. Syson. *Representatives on Branch Council:* The Chairman, Representative and Secretary.

It was resolved to ask Sir Auckland Geddes for information as to appointments on the National Service Boards in the city, and to suggest that the older members of the profession should have preference.

General satisfaction was expressed at the action of the Association which had resulted in raising the standard of professional charges. The Secretary was instructed to reissue the cards with regard to giving early notice of professional visits, accompanied by a circular letter asking members of the profession to adhere to the time laid down.

A meeting of the Division was held on March 12th, when Dr. J. S. SYSON presided. The SECRETARY read a letter from Dr. Norman Walker, Commissioner of the Medical Service for Scotland, in reply to a communication authorized by the Division, on the subject of the National Service Boards. Dr. Walker's letter was not considered a sufficient answer, and Dr. THOMAS RUSSELL moved that the Division Secretary be instructed to write again, pointing out that men of military age are employed on the National Service Boards, that their places should be taken by men of non-military age, and further, if more men are required to man the Boards, a further appeal should be made generally to the profession. Dr. GLAISTER seconded and the motion was unanimously carried. The subject of fees for notifications of infectious diseases was again brought up. After discussion, it was agreed that the matter should be brought up at the next Branch Council meeting by the representatives of the Division.

At an ordinary meeting of the South-Eastern of Ireland Branch at Kilkenny, on March 6th, when Dr. James occupied the chair, a resolution was unanimously adopted, on the motion of Dr. Grace, seconded by Dr. Stephenson, conveying to the relatives of the late Dr. Laffan, Cashel, deep sympathy in the great loss they had sustained.

Association Notices.

ANNUAL REPRESENTATIVE MEETING, 1918.

THE Annual Representative Meeting of the Association, 1918, will be held in London on Thursday, July 25th, 1918, and following day(s) as may be required.

Notices of Motion.

Notices of Motion from Divisions and Branches for the consideration of the Annual Representative Meeting, proposing to make any addition to or any amendment, alteration, or repeal of any Regulation or By-law, or to make any new Regulation or By-law, or proposing material alteration of the policy of the Association in matters relating to the honour and interests of the medical profession or of the Association (Article 30, By-law 40), must be published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL not later than the issue of May 25th, and for this purpose should be received by me not later than May 16th, 1918.

By order,

ALFRED COX,
Medical Secretary.

January 28th, 1918.

INSURANCE.

NATIONAL INSURANCE, 1914–17.

SCOTLAND.

THE section of the Report on the Administration of National Health Insurance, 1914–1917, which deals with Scotland, states that at the commencement of the war the number of insured persons in Scotland was 1,542,284, of whom 1,520,000 were members of approved societies. The Commissioners express the opinion that the panel practice in Scotland had as early as July, 1914, "reached a fairly high standard as compared with the best traditions of private practice." The difficulty in the larger towns in maintaining a satisfactory medical service owing to the number of doctors called to the forces had been met in some cases by the provision of medical bureaux or consulting rooms where the panel doctors attended on a rota; this is said to effect a great saving of their time and energy. The system was started in Dundee, and at a later date Aberdeen and Edinburgh followed suit, but less success has attended the system in Glasgow. The total number of panel doctors at the beginning of the war was 1,754; it had shrunk to 1,229 in 1917, and this, it is stated, left only just about sufficient to meet average requirements with only a very narrow margin for emergencies. To provide medical benefit for a large munition works in the south of Scotland, special arrangements were made in conjunction with the Minister of Munitions on a more comprehensive scale than the National Insurance alone provides, and assistance was also given by the Board of Trade in providing medical attendance for lumbermen.

As in the case of England the expenditure of approved societies for sickness and maternity benefits has progressively decreased since 1914, while disablement benefit has increased over five-fold. The value of the maternity hospitals in Scotland has been recognized by approved societies; all these hospitals have agreed to charge not more than 10s. for intern and 7s. 6d. for extern cases. Without affecting a woman's right to free choice of doctor or midwife, societies representing over 400,000 members have decided to enter into agreements with some maternity hospital.

The total receipts of the Insurance Fund for Scotland for 1916 were £5,604,534, including a balance from 1915 of £3,130,649, Exchequer grants £441,302, and sale of insurance stamps £1,820,958. The payments include £991,977 to societies for benefits and administration, and £636,078 to Insurance Committees for medical and sanatorium benefits and administration; the sum of £3,892,292 was handed over to the National Debt Commissioners for temporary investment. The payments made out of the mileage grant in 1916 amounted to £17,312 for the Lowlands, mileage for the Highlands being now dealt with by the Highlands and Islands Medical Service Board from a grant of £10,000.

The inflation of the index registers was a source of great difficulty, and as it became clear that societies and

Insurance Committees were unable to deal properly with the matter, the Commission undertook the task, but is finding that even with the assistance of a clearing house system the effects of war conditions make proper revision of the registers extremely difficult. It appears from a table showing the number of surgery attendances and visits per 100 insured persons in every area that, taking the country as a whole, surgery attendances averaged 186 and visits 119 per 100 insured persons in 1915, both being lower than in 1914. In the burghs the surgery attendances averaged 210 and visits 86, while in the counties the surgery attendances averaged 153 and visits 166. Thus the county practitioners not only gave a greater total number of consultations but the visits, which take up much more time, exceeded the surgery attendances. The total cost of drugs and appliances decreased from £102,516 in 1914 to £80,451 in 1916. This decrease, in spite of the rise in prices, is attributed to the reports of the checking bureaux calling attention to irregularities and excessive prescribing. The average cost per prescription in 1916 was 9.95d. as compared with 9.74d. in 1915.

As regards sanatorium benefit, the total number of beds available for tuberculosis in approved institutions was 2,507 in 1917, which is equivalent to one bed for 1,800 of population; there are 23 tuberculosis dispensaries. The number of insured persons and dependants that received treatment in 1916 was 3,193. The total income of the Insurance Committees for medical and sanatorium benefits and administration for 1915 was £682,521, as compared with £789,276 in 1914.

LOCAL MEDICAL AND PANEL COMMITTEES.

Bedfordshire.—At a meeting on January 29th it was agreed that panel doctors in the area are entitled to the special mileage grant for the following reasons: (1) the scattered population of the area and inaccessibility of many outlying and isolated cottages, and (2) the large number of patients living over three miles from the doctor's residence. It was considered that the simplest and fairest form of remuneration would be an addition to the capitation fee for all patients living over three miles from a doctor's house.

Derbyshire.—At a meeting on February 21st it was agreed that the extra mileage grant should be distributed by way of an increase proportionate to the amount of the ordinary grant, and that mileage for discharged sailors and soldiers should be included. It was resolved that the pamphlet from the London Panel Committee on the Association of Panel Committees should "lie on the table."

West Riding of Yorkshire.—At a meeting on February 1st the opinion was expressed that the mileage grant should be extended to cover the whole of the West Riding in all cases in which a patient lived more than three miles from the nearest panel doctor. It was decided to sign form M. 19 issued by the British Medical Association, agreeing to abide by the Insurance Acts Committee in the scheme for collective bargaining.

Renfrewshire.—At a meeting of the Panel Committee on February 20th the sum of £1 1s. was subscribed towards the cost of the actuarial inquiry into the composition of the Central Medical Benefit Pool as an expression of confidence in the British Medical Association and appreciation of the labours of that body on behalf of panel practitioners. A letter from the London Panel Committee in favour of setting up a new medical council, to be consulted in connexion with service under the Insurance Acts or any other form of national medical service, was allowed to lie on the table.

Naval and Military Appointments.

ROYAL NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

THE following appointments are announced by the Admiralty:—Temporary Surgeons: R. W. Brand to the *Crescent*, additional; H. C. Mann to Malta Hospital; J. Matheson to Portland Hospital.

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE.

Surgeon Probationers: B. M. Tonkin to the *Hydra*; F. J. M. Larkine to the *Renard*. To be Surgeon Probationers: G. E. W. Felce, B. T. Richards, E. Savage, J. P. T. Mills, L. M. Jennings, F. R. Oliver, G. S. Need, H. Holtby, E. S. Etheridge, B. M. G. Thomas, P. Conacand, F. C. Cozens.

ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE.

Major F. D. Boyd, C.M.G., R.A.M.C.(T.F.), to be temporary Colonel.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

To be acting Lieut.-Colonels whilst in command of a medical unit: Major J. A. Turnbull, D.S.O., Captains A. N. R. McNeill, W. H. S. Burney.

Captain J. B. A. Wigmore, M.B., relinquishes the acting rank of Lieut.-Colonel and reverts to the acting rank of Major with pay and allowances of his substantive rank.

Captain W. B. Purdon, D.S.O., M.C., retains the acting rank of Lieut.-Colonel whilst in command of a convalescent dépôt.

The undermentioned having ceased to be employed with No. 83 (Dublin) General Hospital relinquish their temporary commissions: Lieut.-Colonel H. C. Drury; Major J. Lumsden; Captains J. W. Killen, C. M. Benson, S. H. Law.

Temporary Captains J. C. Pounden and M. Bridgman to be temporary Majors (without increased emoluments) whilst specially employed.

Captain A. W. Byrne is placed on retired pay on account of ill health.

W. C. G. Ashdowne to be temporary honorary Major.

H. W. Kaye, late temporary Captain, is granted the honorary rank of Captain.

Temporary Lieutenants to be temporary Captains: G. A. Wyon, H. G. G. Jeffreys, E. H. K. Altounyan.

Officers relinquish their commissions: Temporary Major H. C. Barclay (and is granted the honorary rank of Major). Temporary Captains: C. E. Boyce, E. J. M. Watson, A. C. Tait, G. Muir, H. T. Douglas, A. Pimm, H. McM. Donaldson (on account of ill health contracted on active service, and is granted the honorary rank of Captain). Temporary Lieutenants: W. B. M. Martin, K. C. Edwards.

SPECIAL RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

A. G. W. Compton, M.C., late Captain, is granted the honorary rank of Captain.

To be Lieutenants: W. L. Dandridge and A. S. Westmorland, from University of London Contingent O.T.C.

OVERSEAS CONTINGENTS.

CANADIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Temporary Major G. Royce to be temporary Lieut.-Colonel.

Temporary Captain J. A. MacMillan to be temporary Major.

Temporary Major J. G. Hunt ceases to be seconded for duty with the Anglo-Russian Red Cross Hospital, Petrograd, Russia, without pay and allowances.

Temporary Major V. E. Henderson, from Central Ontario Regiment, to be temporary Captain.

TERRITORIAL FORCE.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Lieut.-Colonel J. F. Dobson, from permanent personnel, to be Lieut.-Colonel, whose services will be available on mobilization.

Major (temporary Lieut.-Colonel) E. C. Montgomery-Smith, D.S.O., to be Lieut.-Colonel, November 1st, 1917.

To be acting Lieut.-Colonels whilst commanding a field ambulance: Captains (temporary Majors) H. S. Beadles and J. R. Pooler, Captain W. Brown.

Captain (acting Lieut.-Colonel) L. West relinquishes his acting rank on ceasing to command a field ambulance.

Captain F. A. Hepworth remains seconded whilst holding a temporary commission in the R.A.M.C.

Captain C. Rogers, M.C., relinquishes his commission on account of ill health and is granted the honorary rank of Captain.

Captain B. Stracey relinquishes his commission on account of ill health and is granted the honorary rank of Captain.

Lieutenant H. L. Farmer to be Captain.

TERRITORIAL FORCE RESERVE.

Major J. R. Benson from a field ambulance to be Major.

VOLUNTEER FORCE.

County of London Volunteer Regiment, 21st Battalion.—J. L. I. Moore to be Medical Officer and temporary Lieutenant.

Northern Counties Highland Volunteer Regiment, 1/1st Battalion.—Medical Officer and temporary Captain D. Macfadyen resigns his commission.

APPOINTMENTS.

DOBSON, W. T., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., District Medical Officer of the Uxbridge Union.

PATERSON, C. E., M.D.Edin., Certifying Factory Surgeon for the Farnborough No. 1 District, co. Hants.

WEBB, R. E. S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., First Assistant Medical Officer, Portsmouth Parish Infirmary, etc.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is **6s.**, *which sum should be forwarded with the notice not later than the first post on Wednesday morning in order to ensure insertion in the current issue.*

BIRTH.

STUART.—On March 23rd, at Leamore, Walsall, to Violet (Mollie), the wife of A. Murray Stuart, F.R.C.S.Edin.—a son.

MARRIAGES.

PEREZ—GRIFFIN.—On March 13th, at Walton-on-Thames, by the Rev. W. K. Bussell, Victor Perez, M.B., B.S.Lond., to Lilian Griffin, late Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.

TANNER—HUMPHRIES.—On March 14th, at St. Margaret's, Plumstead, by the Rev. A. Thomson, W. E. Tanner, M.S., F.R.C.S., temporary Captain R.A.M.C., to Marie Louise, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Humphries, Plumstead Common.

DIARY OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Date.		Meetings to be Held.
		APRIL.
2	Tues.	London: Medical Officers of Health Subcommittee, 3 p.m.
		London: Public Health Committee, 3.30 p.m.
3	Wed.	London: Medico-Political Committee, 2.0 p.m.
6	Sat.	Insurance Acts Subcommittee (Scotland), North British Station Hotel, Edinburgh, 2.30 p.m.
11	Thur.	CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL MEDICAL AND PANEL COMMITTEES, Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London, W.C., 10 a.m.
17	Wed.	London: Finance Committee, 2.30 p.m.
24	Wed.	London: **Council Meeting.**

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